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Chairman James Oberstar  
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
Chairman Jerry Costello  
Subcommittee on Aviation

Sent via email

Dear Chairman Oberstar and Chairman Costello:

I write to you today to express the support of the Flight Safety Foundation for H.R. 4714, the reauthorization of the National Transportation Safety Board, including increased funding over the next four years.

The NTSB is the pre-eminent authority on accident investigation and is a model for investigators around the world. Other countries routinely seek its expertise during investigations. The value of these investigations, leading to determining probable cause, is invaluable for aviation safety and has saved countless lives.

H.R. 4714 should be passed in the interest of further improving aviation safety. This bill will allow the NTSB to reach its optimal staffing level and to further its mission of investigation and research far more efficiently.

In addition to supplying the funding necessary for the NTSB to pursue their mission of investigation, H.R. 4714 would also allow for an expansion into incident investigation as well as more international work with appropriate permissions from the requesting governments and the State Department. There are many parts of the world struggling to improve their civil aviation safety levels and the NTSB would be a welcome presence to not only investigate, but lead by example.

Aviation safety professionals increasingly are focused on the next step in aviation safety through proactive data monitoring and incident reporting. But we are all in agreement that the work of the NTSB, investigating accidents and incidents, will always be the backbone of maintaining the highest level of safety for our industry. The NTSB does this with exceptional professionalism.

The Flight Safety Foundation urges the House of Representatives to pass H.R. 4714 and provide the funds the NTSB needs in order to do this vital work efficiently and thoroughly.

Sincerely,



William R. Voss  
President and CEO